

What is claimed is:

1. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:
 - a vital-sign monitor comprising sensors for measuring from the patient at least one of the following vital-sign data: O₂ saturation, blood pressure, heart rate, electrocardiogram, respiratory rate, temperature and blood glucose level;
 - a global positioning system for determining location-based data;
 - a wireless transmitter configured to receive the vital-sign and location-based data and wirelessly transmit these data through a wireless network;
 - a gateway software piece that receives and processes the vital-sign and location-based data from the wireless network;
 - a database software piece that communicates with the gateway software piece to receive the vital-sign and location-based data and stores them in a computer memory; and
 - an Internet-based user interface that displays the vital sign and location-based data.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the Internet-based user interface comprises a login functionality that analyzes input information and in response renders either a first or second interface.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the first interface is associated with a single entity, and the second interface is associated with a group of entities.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the input information comprises a user login and a password.
5. The system of claim 2, wherein the second interface comprises a numerical table that displays the vital-sign and location-based data associated with the plurality of patients.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the second interface comprises a web page that displays an alert message associated with a patient.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising an application software piece that processes vital-sign data to generate the alert message.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the application software piece comprises an algorithm that compares vital-sign data to a pre-determined level to generate the alert message.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the system further comprises an application software piece configured to process multiple vital-sign data to generate the alert message.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the application software piece processes vital-sign data and data associated with a patient's age to generate the alert message.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the application software piece processes vital-sign data and data associated with a patient's gender to generate the alert message.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a first software component that transmits an electronic file.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the vital-sign monitor further comprises a second software component that receives the electronic file.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the Internet-based user interface comprises a web page that sends an email or electronic message to a patient.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the email or electronic message is a pre-determined message stored in the database component.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the system automatically transmits the email or electronic message following analysis of the vital-sign and location-based data.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the system automatically transmits a report.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the database component is configured to generate the report.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the first software component is configured to transmit data formatted in an XML-based format.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the XML-based format is compatible with a second Internet-based software system.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein the vital-sign monitor further comprises a display that displays an email or electronic message received from the Internet.

22. The system of claim 13, wherein the second software component is configured to receive wirelessly transmitted computer code.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the second software component processes the wirelessly transmitted computer code to update an existing computer code in the vital-sign monitor.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the software component processes the wirelessly transmitted computer code to load a schema into the vital-sign monitor.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the software component processes the wirelessly transmitted computer code to modify the vital-sign monitor's transmission properties.

26. The system of claim 25, where the software component processes the wirelessly transmitted computer code to modify the vital-sign monitor's transmission frequency.

27. The system of claim 24, wherein the software component processes the wirelessly transmitted computer code to modify the data transmitted by the vital-sign monitor.

28. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:

a vital-sign monitor comprising:

sensors for measuring from the patient at least one of the following vital-sign data: O₂ saturation, blood pressure, heart rate, electro-cardiogram, respiratory rate, temperature and blood glucose level;

a global positioning system that generates location-based data; and

a wireless component that transmits the vital-sign and location-based data and receives component code;

a wireless transmitter configured to receive the vital-sign and location-based data and wirelessly transmit these data through a wireless network;

a gateway software piece that receives and processes the vital-sign and location-based data from the wireless network;

a database software piece that communicates with the gateway software piece to receive the vital-sign and location-based data and stores them in a computer memory; and

an Internet-based user interface that displays the vital sign and location-based data and comprises a first interface that displays vital-sign and location-based data for a single patient and a second interface that displays vital sign and location-based data for a plurality of patients.

29. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:

a vital-sign monitor comprising a sensor for measuring data characterizing O₂ saturation from the patient;

- a global positioning system for determining location-based data;
- a wireless transmitter configured to receive the data and wirelessly transmit these data through a wireless network;
- a gateway software piece that receives and processes the data from the wireless network;
- a database software piece that communicates with the gateway software piece to receive the data and store them in a computer memory; and
- an Internet-based user interface that displays the data and comprises a first interface that displays vital-sign and location-based data for a single patient and a second interface that displays vital-sign and location-based data for a plurality of patients.

30. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:

- a vital-sign monitor integrated into a finger-worn unit comprising a sensor that measures data characterizing O₂ saturation from the patient;
- a global positioning system for determining location-based data; and
- a processor, in wired or unwired electrical contact with the vital-sign monitor and the global positioning system, that receives and processes the O₂ saturation and location-based data.

31. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:

- a blood-pressure monitor that measures O₂ saturation data from the patient;
- a processor, in wired or unwired electrical contact with the monitor, that receives and processes the O₂ saturation data to determine blood pressure; and
- a wireless transmitter configured to receive blood pressure data and transmit this information through a wireless network.

32. A system for monitoring a patient, comprising:

- a blood-pressure monitor integrated into a finger or wrist-worn unit comprising a sensor that measures data characterizing O₂ saturation and blood pressure from the patient;

a processor, in wired or unwired electrical contact with the monitor, that receives and processes the O₂ saturation and blood pressure data; and

a wireless transmitter configured to receive the O₂ saturation and blood pressure data from the processor and transmit these data through a wireless network.